



**For immediate release  
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## **DCR OFFERING ACCESSIBLE WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is sponsoring a variety of adaptive recreation opportunities this winter at locations across the Commonwealth. People with disabilities, as well as their friends and families, are invited to participate.

The activities, offered through DCR's Universal Access Program, are held primarily on weekends through April. They include accessible cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kicksledding, snowmobiling, and ice skating at DCR parks and facilities. A full list of activities is included below.

The Universal Access Program (UAP) provides recreational accessibility to state and urban park facilities for individuals with disabilities, their families, and friends. For persons with disabilities, free use of accessible equipment, such as sit skis and kicksleds, as well as staff assistance, is available. In spring and summer, UAP offers cycling, kayaking, canoeing, rowing, sailing, hiking, letterboxing, bird watching, interpretive programs and more. Skilled instructors and volunteers provide equipment, instruction, and support.

"Our Universal Access Program is one of the most innovative and groundbreaking programs in the nation," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "It has helped make our state and urban park recreation programs more inclusive, so that people with disabilities can participate independently or with their friends and families in a wide variety of activities."

For additional information on DCR's Universal Access Program, a schedule of activities, and to preregister, visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/) and click on "universal access," or call 617-626-1294, 413-545-5353, or 413-577-2200 (TTY). Also, ask about volunteer opportunities!

A schedule of activities is below. Preregistration is required.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Universal Access Program  
Winter/Spring Schedule**

DCR's Artesani Park Saturday, June 6th [Rain Date, June 13] 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wendell State Forest	Saturday, February 28 from 11AM – 3PM
Weston Ski Track in Weston	Sunday, March 1 from Noon-4PM
DAR State Forest	Tuesday, March 10 from 11AM-3PM
Blackstone River Heritage State Park	Sunday, March 15 from 11AM-3PM

Medford	Sunday, March 1, Noon-1:50PM
Boston, Steriti	Sunday, March 8, 2-4PM

Great Falls Discovery Center/Turners Falls	Saturday, March 14, 10AM – Noon.
Norwottuck Rail Trail, Amherst	Saturday, April 25, 10AM – Noon.
Mt. Tom State Reservation, Holyoke	Saturday, May 16, 10AM – Noon.

Mt. Tom State Reservation, Holyoke	Tuesday, April 21, 11AM – 3PM
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls	Friday, April 24, 11AM – 3PM

*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*